

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 are allowed and claims 9-19 are rejected. The following remarks are addressed to the referenced paragraphs of the Office Action dated September 16, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner kindly pointing out the need for an Information Disclosure Statement in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(b). Such Information Disclosure Statement has been submitted in a separate correspondence.

Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings, because Figures 1, 2, and 3 are not designated as "Prior Art", but illustrate only that which is old. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner kindly pointing out the need to mark Figures 1, 2, and 3 with the legend --Prior Art--, which amendment is made herein, obviating this grounds for objection.

Specification

The Office Action refers to the suggested arrangement of a specification of a utility application provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b). The specification is amended herein to incorporate the appropriate section headings.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 12 are objected to for lack of clarity, because the term “latter” is recited therein. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended herein to more clearly claim the present invention, obviating this grounds for objection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 9-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action argues that the phrase “that surface” in line 3 of claim 9 lacks antecedent basis, and the phrase “it comprises the steps consisting” renders the claim vague and indefinite. Claim 9 is amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The amendments to claim 9 obviate this grounds for rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-8, and the acknowledgement of allowability of claims 9-19 upon amendment to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons and in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration of claims 1-19, allowance of claims 1-19, and issuance of Letters Patent for the subject invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean-Luc Ricaud



Richard LaPeruta, Jr.
Registration No. 51,252
Attorney for Applicants
Phone: (717) 295-6207
Facsimile: (717)-295-6084

Date: 26 Jan, 2004

Patent Operation
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312